

## Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

### Research Permit Conditions and Consolidated Regulations

The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established through a donation from the Nature Conservancy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain natural ecological processes and to preserve and enhance native wildlife habitats on the property. The primary goals of the refuge are to protect and manage endangered species and to preserve, restore, and maintain biological diversity as it occurred historically on the refuge. In order to protect native wildlife and wildlife habitats on the refuge, and to ensure the safety of permittees, refuge staff, and visitors, we ask that permittees and their assistants follow the conditions and regulations below.

All permittees and assistants are required to sign in at the refuge headquarters before entering the refuge. Permittees may notify the office in person, by phone, or by leaving a message on the answering machine after business hours. Please tell us your name, the number of people in your party, the date you are entering the refuge, how long you intend to stay in the field, and the location of your work.

Entry on the refuge is for stated objectives and locations only, as indicated on the permit. To minimize the disturbance to wildlife and habitat, travel on the refuge by permittees and assistants is restricted to established (graded) roads on direct routes to and from the permittee's research site(s). We encourage permittees to car pool to sites. All vehicles must be operated in accordance with State laws and regulations. Please limit your speed to 25 miles per hour and yield for wildlife. Bicycles are not permitted on Sevilleta NWR.

Permittees and their assistants are also required to sign in at the boxes located at each designated entrance road and to sign out again upon return. This procedure will help us locate missing parties.

Permittees must carry a copy of the permit in their vehicle while on the refuge. The permit should be placed so that the permit number can be read from outside the vehicle.

All Sevilleta NWR gate combinations are changed in January. For security reasons, gate combinations are subject to change throughout the year without notice. Please close and lock all gates when entering or leaving the refuge.

To minimize the impact of vehicles on wildlife, we ask permittees to park vehicles a minimum of one-quarter mile from any refuge wildlife water supply. Please park off to the side of the road to allow other vehicles and equipment to pass.

To protect wildlife and habitat, as well as cultural and historical resources on the refuge, the collection of plant, animal, and mineral specimens, antlers, and man-made objects and artifacts is prohibited unless otherwise specified on the research permit.

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Permanent research sites will be designated with a refuge marker. Upon completion of a research project, we ask that all stakes, flagging, transect markers, or other items be removed, so that the site may return to its natural state.

To minimize human impact on the refuge, camping is prohibited unless specifically stated on the research permit. Open fires are also prohibited due to the extreme fire hazard on the refuge. Please **do not** bring pets on the refuge. Please remove any trash that you generate when you leave.

In inclement weather, please call or visit the refuge headquarters to check on the status of the refuge, as it may be closed to traffic. We request that permittees and their assistants not enter the refuge or drive on dirt roads when conditions are wet and muddy.

Permittees are asked to report vehicle accidents and human injuries to the refuge headquarters within twenty-four hours of the incident and to complete the necessary documentation. If possible, do not move vehicles from the scene of an accident until an investigation takes place.

Firearms and weapons such as air guns, bows, or spears are prohibited on the refuge.

Possession of alcohol or a controlled substance on federal property is prohibited. Entering the refuge while under the influence of alcohol or some medications may endanger the permittee, another person, or property, and is therefore prohibited.

Out of respect for refuge staff and others, we ask that permittees not tamper with refuge and other researchers' vehicles, structures, or equipment.

We encourage permittees and their assistants to notify the refuge headquarters of road hazards, damaged fencing, injured animals, or anything unusual that they encounter on the refuge. In addition, as part of our efforts to preserve and restore native habitats on Sevilleta NWR, refuge staff have been identifying and treating infestations of nonnative plants, and we encourage permittees and their assistants to report new outbreaks of invasive plants, as well as nonnative animal sightings on the refuge.